



Monthly Energy Update

Republicans Roll Out Energy, Permitting Package

Page 8

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WECC Issues the 2023 "State of the Interconnection Report"1

PacifiCorp Files Request for Extension in IRP Filing.....3

CA Risks Being "Left Behind" in Race to Unify Western US Grid, Group Says.....3

NuScale Must Triple Subscription Level for Idaho SMR by Early 2024.....4

Planned PacifiCorp Transmission Line Located in WY Could Deliver 1,100 MW of Wind5

SPP May Need Backstop Capacity Procurement as Supplies Shift.....7

Republicans Roll Out Energy, Permitting Package8

DOE Opens \$750 M Funding Round for Clean Hydrogen Projects.....9

US Develops Plans to Buy Emissions Cuts to Address Climate Change.....9

FERC Urged to Define a Set of Benefits for Grid Planning.....10

UAE Hosts 37th Annual Conference.....11

Western Power Prices.....12

WECC Issues “State of the Interconnection Report”: Solar, Wind, and Battery Storage Expected to Reign

The Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) has issued its 2023 State of the Interconnection Report.

The report shows that over 2017-2021 total net coal generation decreased by 31%, while wind and solar generation soared at 49% and 50%, with natural gas generation increasing by 28%. Hydro and nuclear energy both saw a decrease, of 19% and 2%, respectively.

The report illustrates that annual demand in the Western Interconnection was over 892 MWh in 2021, greater than all previous years except 2015.

The 2022 interconnection-wide annual peak demand, and *new all-time peak*, was 167,530 MW, which occurred on September 6, 2022, during the August-September heat event. To date, the 2022/2023 interconnection-wide winter peak demand was 125,600 MW and occurred on December 21, 2022.

The key priorities for WECC are: cybersecurity, extreme natural events, resource adequacy, and the impact of the changing resources and customer loads on the Bulk Power System.

In 2022, WECC reports five cyberattacks occurred in the Western Interconnection, although none affected load. The attacks included malware, cyberattack on a vendor, cyberattack on corporate email and telephone